AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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OPPONENTS OF A. F. OF L. POLITICAL POLICY CHANGE FRONT

The Socialist party has made a complete about-face from its attacks on the A. F. of L. non-partisan political policy.

It now acknowledges that the trade unions are not interested in a national labor party.

For years the Socialist party has condemned the A. F. of L. and its officials because of the trade union political nonpartisan policy. President Gompers, especially, has been the target for charges of all descriptions. No other man in the American labor movement has been so bitterly assailed.

The attempts of the Socialist party to force a change of viewpoint in the unions has brought more dissension and hard feeling in the ranks of the workers than any other issue.

The Socialist party's new position is the result of a refusal to attend a convention called by the farmer-labor party in Chicago the first week in July. In declining the invitation, the Socialist party referred the matter to a committee, which wrote the farmer-laborites:

"Is there reason to believe that a sufficient number of powerful national and international unions favor independent political action at the present time? We wish that we could answer this question in the affirmative. Candor compels us to admit, however, that the evidences of widespread discontent with the parties of capitalism within the ranks of organized labor, comparatively few of the great trade unions are yet ready to take the decisive step of launching a working-class party on a national scale."

Here is a confession that 20 years' campaign of "education" within the unions has failed, and that recriminations, libels and accusations have had absolutely no effect on trade union policy or the judgment of the unionists.

It is hardly possible to present a clearer statement on the collapse of the efforts of the Socialist party, which now, after years of turmoil inside the unions, says: "Candor compels us to admit" that "comparatively few of the great unions" are interested in a national labor party.

The Socialist party now indicates that it is at last awake to public opinion and changed public policy. Their own party —or what is left of it—is now adopting the A. F. of L. policy in certain localities.

The new position of the Socialist party almost makes a unanimous thought in this country that the day of political parties, rigidly bound by dogma and iron discipline, has disappeared.

For years the trade union movement urged an independent ballot when other forces, blinded by partisanship, would lure voters to their various political camps.

Today no intelligent voter professes unyielding allegiance to a political party. The A. F. of L. policy, scorned up to within a few years ago, is now recognized as a national characteristic that will become more marked with time.

And even the propaganda methods of the A. F. of L. are being adopted. Railroad and other corporations that charged organized labor with "attempting to coerce lawmakers" are now urging their stockholders to write these lawmakers to favor certain legislation.

On every side is a loosening of party ties and party discipline—the first essential for party success. And in this breaking down of the party spirit, and the resultant weakening of political parties, is seen the establishment of an independence and an intelligence that mean a higher standard of citizenship.

The tendency of the times vindicates the non-partisan political policy of the A. F. of L.

The Socialist party has finally accepted what has long been apparent to observing citizens.

GARY BLUFFS AGAIN ON EIGHT-HOUR DAY

Washington, July 14.—"Tainted with bluff and insincerity" is one of President Gompers' pointed comments on the promise of Judge Gary to President Harding that the eight-hour day in the steel industry will be established when there is a surplus of labor available."

"I advise steel workers not to expect too much as a result of the exchange of cordialities between the president and Judge Gary," said President Gompers. "The president suggested to Mr. Gary that the 12-hour day might be abolished 'when there is a surplus of labor available,' and Mr. Gary puts those words in quotation marks in his response, and agrees with the president and the act of a born diplomat that, of course, it will be as the president wishes.

"When there is a surplus of labor available' the judge, doubtless, thinks wages can be cut, and he, doubtless, hopes this 'surplus' may be hastened by wide-open immigration.

"The whole thing is tainted with bluff and insincerity. The steel trust will cater first to profits, and it will not do anything that will even hold the possibility of jeopardizing profits until driven to it either by irresistible public opinion or the force of organization among the steel workers.

"The one sure way of ending the 12-hour day in the steel mills is for the steel workers, through their organization, to refuse to remain slaves to the steel trust. The Gary 'when' letter is a travesty and a particularly cruel one. That the president should consider it worth giving to the public as a serious promise is amazing."

GARYISM IS SCORED BY EVERY CHURCH MAN

Washington, July 14.—Church men of all creeds are united in opposition to Judge Gary's letter to the president that the 12-hour day will be abolished when there is a surplus of labor.

Without exception the clergymen and editors hail the steel trust's excuse for perpetuating the long work-day. In not a single instance can the trust find a one thing favoring the church men.

The church men's position is illustrated by this statement by the department of social action, national Catholic welfare council:

"This statement (by Judge Gary) assumes that even if common labor in the steel mills get good wages, an eight-hour day and decent working conditions, the steel industry will still have to depend on new immigrants and refugees to keep down labor cotton fields to do its work.

"It also assumes that men working an eight-hour day will work at no higher efficiency than men working a 12-hour day, and that the steel companies intend to get along on the high profits, store up the same surpluses and not increase the efficiency of the management."

WOMEN'S 48-HOUR WEEK OPPOSED BY EMPLOYERS

Augusta, Me., July 14.—The 48-hour law for wage working women and children will command the attention of Maine organized labor, until next October, as a result of declarations by the annual convention of the Maine state federation of labor.

The law will be voted on by the people at a special election. The friends of the measure before the legislature as an initiated petition, signed by 12,000 legal voters, as provided by the constitution.

Organized employers as usual, are opposing the bill. The textile corporations have raised the cry, "southern competition" as a defense for the long-hour system, though friends of the 48-hour week refer to stock dividends by these mills as proof of their excessive profits.

URGE AMNESTY.

Denver, Colo., July 14.—A delegation of citizens, headed by Governor Sweet, urged President Harding, while in this city, to grant amnesty to the remaining 23 political prisoners. Included in the delegation were Chief Justice James H. Teller of the supreme court of Colorado; Ben Lindsay, judge of the Denver juvenile court; and several well-known churchmen. In their plea, submitted to the president, the pleaders say:

"It is a fact that nearly all of the prisoners have served nearly two years in some jail or penitentiary; furthermore, we call the attention of the that practically every country involved in the war has granted amnesty to its political prisoners."

KILL COMPENSATION BILL

Harrisburg, Pa., July 14.—The house defeated the workmen's compensation amendment through the vote dodging of six lawmakers. The defeat of the bill makes impossible increased compensation to an injured man or his widow with a family depending on them for support. The present rate of $12 per week was set in 1913 when living costs were less than one-half of the present figure.

MINERS PENALIZED; EMPLOYERS ESCAPE

Washington, July 14.—"Real penalties for the miners, phantom penalties for the operators, seem to be the outstanding feature in the program favored by the federal coal commission for dealing with a suspension of production in the anthracite coal industry," said President Gompers in commenting on the preliminary report of the United States coal commission.

"It is plain to see that of all the 'bright minds' on the commission, not one was a representative of the coal miners," said President Gompers. "If there had been a single representative of the men who actually produce anthracite coal, the commission would scarcely have recommended that the president be given the power to fix wages to be paid workers in the event of a suspension of mining operations.

"The attempt to outlaw the right to stop work as a means of improving the condition of the working people of the United States has doomed to fail. Such attempts have failed in the past and will be equally unsuccessful in the future. Labor will never give up the right to strike as a last resort in the fight against wrong and oppression.

"The very fact that the commission found that anthracite operators are receiving nearly three times as much a profit as before the war is a strong argument against any attempt to force the miners to remain at work year in and year out, regardless of the attitude of the mine owners. If the public has its way, the operators to fatten at the expense of the miners deserves little sympathy in the event of a cessation of coal production, and if it will insist on fair play for the miners there is no danger of their striking.

"On the whole, the report can not be considered as constructive, though it contains a few good features. The real is a public utility is a step in advance. So also are the recommendations that the federal department of labor ask congress to make current reports to the federal government regarding profits, and that congress be asked to protect the public and that operators should combine to guarantee a standing quantity of anthracite for the consumer."

TURKISH OIL MELON SLICED BY STANDARD

New York, July 14.—Wall street hears that as a result of Germany since the Standard oil will be allowed to "sit in" on the cutting of the Turkish oil melon, at Mosul, in Asiatic Turkey.

Fifty per cent of this rich oil field is controlled by British interests; 25 per cent by Dutch interests and 25 per cent by French interests. The latter nation has supplanted Germany since the passing as a world power.

It was first proposed that each nation contribute their fair share, but the Standard oil could be "in" to the extent of 25 per cent. The Dutch interests objected to any such any part of the holdings in the interest of international comity and good will between themselves and Standard interests. It is now claimed that the British will contribute the largest share to Standard oil. Under this plan the four countries that lead in oil production will control the Turks' oil at Mosul.

REVIVE OLD SLOGAN IN OPPOSING GARYISM

Trenton, N. J., July 14.—The Trenton Times suggests that workers revive the old slogan of a generation ago in opposing Judge Gary's 12-hour day.

"Eight hours for work, eight hours for sleep, and eight hours for recreation and self-improvement," was a popular slogan of workingmen half a century ago when protesting against the 12 and 14 hour day that then prevailed in some sections, and in some of the industries of the country. It says the Times, it should be revived now in protest against the attempt of the steel industry to keep the 12-hour day. It should not be necessary in these times for any man to be compelled to labor 12 hours of the 24 in order to earn a living for himself and family. And it is unnecessary for the steel or any other industry that 12-hour shifts shall be maintained. That is too much like human slavery, and slavery was abolished in this country 60 years ago."

HUGE STEEL PROFITS.

New York, July 14.—In advertising for the sale of $40,000,000 gold bonds, bearing 7 per cent, the Youngstown sheet and tube company states that profits for the last 19 years amounted to $104,132,000.

The president of this company, James A. Campbell, signed the recent Gary report which declared that if the 12-hour day in the steel industry is abandoned prices would have to be increased.

DENOUNCE 12-HOUR DAY.

Des Moines, Iowa, July 14.—The 12-hour day and the seven-day week in industrial workers is a menace to the American home and free government, according to a resolution adopted by the twenty-ninth International Christian Endeavor convention in session here.

Call Union Shop By Proper Name

By President Gompers, in Report to Norfolk Convention, 1907.

With some regret I have heard several men in our movement repeating the false designation of the union shop, as the opponents of our movement call it, the "closed shop." Those who are hostile to labor cunningly employ the term "closed shop" for the purpose because of the general antipathy which is ordinarily felt toward anything being shut out, and with the specious plea that the so-called "open shop" must necessarily be the opportunity for freedom. As a matter of fact you and I and any intelligent observer know that the union shop is open to all workmen who perform their duty, and that they participate in the benefits and advantages of the improved conditions which a union shop affords.

The union shop implies also duties and responsibilities. This is incident to and the corollary of all human institutions.

LARKIN, REVOLUTIONIST, SPLITS IRISH WORKERS

Washington, July 14.—James Larkin, Irish revolutionist, who was recently released from a New York penitentiary by Governor Smith, is up to his old tricks, according to British labor papers received at A. F. of L. headquarters.

On his return to Dublin, Larkin headed a mob that seized the offices of the Irish transport workers, and as head of the organization, assumed control of affairs.

The Cotton Factory Times makes this comment on Larkin:

"Jim Larkin, who has been in an American prison for some years, has returned to Dublin and found there is trouble in the ranks of the workers because of the dictatorial part he has been playing. Larkin has declared that he his belief that he is born to be obeyed by all with whom he comes in contact. We can not forget the insolent manner in which he interviewed the parliamentary committee of the British Trades Union Congress in the days of the Dublin strike, when the parliamentary committee was getting all the food and money together and he was strutting about as a divinely appointed dictator. There is no room for such people in the trade union movement."

WILL END 12-HOUR DAY IN ANTHRACITE REGION

Atlantic City, N. J., July 14.—Anthracite mine owners have pledged the United Mine Workers that they will join with the unionists in ending the 12-hour day in the hard coal fields.

This pledge is in contrast to the steel trust's position that more immigrants are necessary before the 12-hour day can be abolished.

As spokesman for the mine owners in their joint wage conference with mine workers, Samuel D. Warriner said:

"In view of the fact that we feel that the abolition of the 12-hour day is dear to the hearts of the United Mine Workers, and the fact that, measured by public standards, the 12-hour day is out of date, we say to you frankly that we will join with you to work out, as soon as practicable, a plan of organization by which this practice can be eliminated from the industry."

The mine owners' decision will affect approximately 5,000 workers.

LESS LABOR DEMAND.

Albany, N. Y., July 14.—June reports from state employment offices and manufacturers indicate that the demand for labor has been checked, the department of labor announces. Commissioner Shientag says: "A satisfactory condition of employment prevails in this state, but there is a sufficient supply to maintain the desired production except in a few lines."

The department office reports indicate a very good balance between the labor supply and demand in skilled trades. The chief shortage is in common labor. It is also necessary for employers in the unfilled demand was largely from employers who would not pay the prevailing rate of wages.

BARBERS RAISE WAGES.

Toledo, Ohio, July 14.—Organized barbers have secured a 10 per cent agreement which calls for $30 a week guarantee, with 60 per cent over $42. The old rate was $25 a week and 50 per cent over $37.

RAIL INCOMES HIGH.

New York, July 14.—Reports from leading railroads for the last five months indicate that net profits for all these corporations will show a gain over last year.

METAL WORKERS GAIN.

Portland, Me., July 14.—Sheet metal workers have secured a nine-shop agreement that continues for one year.

SHERIFF SUPPLIES GUNS TO UTAH MINE OWNERS

Salt Lake City, Utah, July 14.—The case with which big business in this state can use the machinery of government to smash strikes is shown in the trial of three miners in a case growing out of shooting last year between mine strikers and coal owners' guards.

Former Sheriff Kelter of Carbon county acknowledged on the witness stand that when he was sheriff he sent at New Helper, in that county. In a previous trial the superintendent testified that he "had made up his mind" he would not permit picketing of any sort by the strikers. The deputy sheriff connecting this statement with the donating of guns by a sheriff who is now employed by one of the mine companies.

The former sheriff said he knew the mine official was not a deputy sheriff when he received these guns, and that he knew the feeling between the mine officials and the strikers was strong.

FORTY-HOUR WEEK IN NEEDLE TRADE

New York, July 14.—The Bonnaz Embroidery Workers' union has signed a 40-hour week with employers, to take effect November 1 next. This is the second affiliate of the International Ladies Garment Workers' union to win what was looked upon a few years ago as an impossibility.

The embroidery workers' victory was possible after they presented a 100 per cent organization to employers. The agreement also provides that work shall be divided equally in slack seasons and that a conference board, to pass on trade problems, will be created by employers and employed. There are to be 10 legal holidays during the year for which employes are to be paid without working.

FRIGHT IS MORE FATAL THAN STARVING, HE SAYS

New York, July 14.—Persons lost in the woods or imprisoned in mines die of fright instead of starvation, where there are no other causes of death, such as accident or suffocation, said Dr. Hugh W. Conklin, of Battle Creek, Mich., at a convention of osteopaths in this city.

Dr. Conklin said he reached this conclusion because of his experiments in testing epilepsy by a method of fasting, in which he found that the human body can go for a long period without food without any sensible diminution of its powers. He said he had caused 73 epileptic patients to fast for an average period of 32 days, during which time the patients walked an average of two miles a day without overtaxing their strength.

LABOR LAW IS ILLEGAL

Sacramento, Cal., July 14.—The state supreme court has set aside that portion of the workmen's compensation act requiring employers to pay $250 a year to a fund to victims of industrial accidents. The statute was passed by the state legislature four years ago, and provided that the money so raised should be used in the rehabilitation and reeducation of injured persons. The supreme court held that this is a tax measure, and must be applied uniformly upon all who come within a proper classification of the persons bearing the burden of the tax.

BOSSES RAISE WAGES.

Portland, Me., July 14.—Employing plumbers voluntarily raised wages to $1 an hour when these unionists called attention to the low rate in this city.

CAR MEN RAISE WAGES.

Peoria, Ill., July 14.—An arbitrator has awarded street car men in this city a straight 2-cent an hour increase.

"CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW URGED BY COAL BOARD

Washington, July 14.—Let the president set miners' wages and hold these workers to their tasks in the event of failure of mine workers and coal owners to agree.

This is included in the preliminary report by the United States coal commission, after eight months' investigation.

The report also recommends that the government shall own the mines and they be operated by the president, who shall set coal prices and the compensation to be paid to the mine owners. In the latter case, however, the president has not the final word, as in the case of setting wages. The property owners may appeal to the courts if they believe the award is too low.

In its plan to avert strikes, the commission says that the expiration of the contract in the anthracite region should not coincide with the expiration of the bituminous contract.

Reference is made to coal owners' enormous profits, and reports by coal owners, as do railroads, and other public utility corporations, is favored.

The commission does not seem to consider that it would inflict a penalty on miners if congress prohibited them from striking and empowered the president to set their wages. The commission says the "punitive legislation" will be recommended at this time, but that the anthracite wage negotiations, now on, will be watched to see if the miners and coal owners "show a co-operative spirit."

ALABAMA IS ONLY STATE THAT LEASES CONVICTS

Birmingham, Ala., July 14.—Alabama is the only state in the union to lease convicts to private citizens, says a committee of citizens who are opposing the leasing of convicts.

The committee says convicts are more than 1,600 of the best physical specimens are leased or contracted to four coal mining companies and one lumber company. The committee states that 90 per cent of convicts maimed in 1921 and 1922 received accidents to their injuries while under lease, and that 80 per cent of the tuberculosis cases are contracted while the victims are under lease.

The committee quotes figures on convict casualties from official reports. In 1917, 27 were killed; in 1918, 14; in 1919, 18; in 1920, 12; in 1921, 20. Although these are more than 250 mines in operation in Alabama, 25 per cent of all the men killed were convicts working in five mines.

The anti-leasing committee is enlisting citizens in every section of the state in a fight against "this blot on our state's fair name."

WEST VIRGINIA MINERS TO FIGHT "FRAME-UP"

Charleston, W. Va., July 14.—The state federation of labor is appealing to the people of West Virginia to aid in the fight of miners to escape a frame-up in Logan county by anti-union forces. The courts of Logan, controlled by the gun men of coal owners, who have secured indictments against 30 miners in Logan county and they will not be given a change of venue.

"If these men are tried in Logan county, their chance for life and liberty is gone," say state federation of labor officials. "If those who were indicted in 1921 could not get a fair trial (which was admitted by their being acquitted) a change of venue chance has Harold Houston and the other 20 men whom they now openly boast must be tried in Logan county!"

CONVICTS' TERMS CUT.

Raleigh, N. C., July 14.—Governor Morrison has commuted the terms of 259 convicts at the state prison to indeterminate sentences. This will include 206 who are already serving indeterminate sentences. Prisoners who have served less than one-half of their sentences or one-fourth of indeterminate time taken off. Those who have more than $100 to their credit in the prison fund to victims of industrial accidents. The statute was passed by the state legislature four years ago, and provided that the money so raised should be used in the rehabilitation and reeducation of injured persons. The supreme court held that this is a tax measure, and must be applied uniformly upon all who come within a proper classification of the persons bearing the burden of the tax.

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Gary Throws Out Smoke Screen To Befuddle 12-Hour Opponents

Washington, July 14.—An analysis of the 12-hour-day correspondence between President Harding and Judge Gary does not indicate that the steel trust has changed its position.

Instead, there is danger that the correspondence may be used by defenders of the steel trust to silence agitation against the 12-hour day.

Since the last the steel barons have been lashed unmercifully by a whirlwind of public opinion because of their refusal to abolish the 12-hour day, unless—

"If labor would become sufficient to permit it, the members of this committee would favor entirely abolishing the 12-hour day, provided, further, that the employes would be satisfied with selling prices that justified it, and provided, further, that the employes would consent, and that industry, generally including the farmers, would acquiesce."

These "ifs" and "buts" in defense of the inhuman workday enraged the public. On June 18, the president wrote Judge Gary:

"In the hope that this question could be disposed of, I am wondering if it would not be possible for the steel industry to consider giving an understanding that before there shall be any reduction in the staff of employes through any reason, the demand for steel products OR AT ANY TIME WHEN THERE IS A SURPLUS OF LABOR AVAILABLE, that then the change would be made from the two shifts to three shifts."

This is the identical position Judge Gary and associates took on May 25 last.

Judge Gary acted on the president's hint and used the president's identical language. In his letter to the president which the latter has just made public, the steel chief said:

"We think it can be brought about without undue delay when, as stated, it, 'THERE IS A SURPLUS OF LABOR AVAILABLE.'"

In his Tacoma speech the president treated Gary's letter as a pledge in favor of the eight-hour day. "I wish to congratulate the steel industry on this important step," said the president.

But the foxy steel executive has only muddied the waters. He has committed himself to nothing and has made no pledges. Instead, he has reaffirmed his May 25 declaration that more immigrants must be admitted.

The president's letter has permitted him to throw out a smoke screen which must be dissolved before agitation against the 12-hour day will prove as effective as before the president's letter.

President Gompers has declared that the Gary letter is "tainted with bluff and insincerity." The trade union executive says further that the president should consider Gary's letter "worth giving to the public as a serious problem."

WORKERS SUFFER MOST BECAUSE OF STRIKES

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, July 14.—"For no one is a strike so unpleasant as for the strikers themselves; they suffer by it far more than anybody else," says the Australian Worker.

"The strike darkens the homes of workers—and it darkens them on their doors, puts the shadow of care into the wives' eyes, and the pallor of worry into their cheeks, and threatens injury to the children, lovingly as they are guarded.

"We are told that a strike has been forced by a handful of hotheaded militants, or by truculent union leaders, and dismiss the allegation with contempt."

The labor paper makes this comment on the strike with 20,000 men in the Maitland coal fields, which was caused by coal owners discharging representatives of miners who protested against poor working conditions.

"This strike is a cruel thing for the miners and their families," said the labor editor. "It means actual hunger for many of them, privation for them all—it means going short, sinking into debt, losing their bits of furniture, with difficulties that will keep them on the breadline for long months after the strike is over.

"There is no need to dwell on the vital spot. A temporary stoppage of profits is the worst that befalls them. There is nothing missing from their tables. Their wives and children don't have to do without anything.

"The fact of their standing by their mates, despite the bitter price that must be paid, have justified the labor movement."

TORY AGENTS GLOAT AT REDS' ACTIVITY

Boston, July 14.—In an attack on President Gompers, which it labels "advice," the Boston News Bureau can not conceal its jubilation that revolutionists are attempting to destroy the trade unions.

The news bureau is a spokesman for big business. Its "advice" is the distorted citizens' alliance harangue that has been worn threadbare the past 25 years by reactionists.

Its only claim to public attention is this carefully worded notice to revolutionists that the Tory element is in sympathy with their attack on the trade unions:

"Perhaps it is too late for you to change, Mr. Gompers. But the final estimate of your career will be cast in the future, when the fierce light that is ere long the great Federation, which you have created, and to which you have given the labors of the worn years of thought and toil, will have to face the most bitter struggle of its existence, for many of the extreme radicals, are planning a tremendous effort to take possession of it in the near future."

DID DAUGHERTY WRITE COMMISSION'S REPORT?

Atlantic City, N. J., July 14.—Did Attorney General Daugherty write certain important portions of the coal commission's report?

Publication was made this charge which has been denied by the attorney general and two members of the coal commission. Mr. Daugherty conferred between mine workers and mine owners in this city, the former presented a resolution that the charges be investigated, but the coal owners refused to concur. They said the decision of the commission in the Kansas mission is sufficient, and that further action would involve the integrity of the commission.

WOMEN LAWMAKERS LEAD

San Francisco, July 14.—According to a tabulation by officers of the state federation of labor, seven members of the last state legislature were the best labor members of the session. The women are Grace S. Dorris of Bakersfield and Edith D. Hamlin of Los Angeles supplied the bitterest opponent of humane legislation. Hiram W. Hilliary of Alameda, spokesman for the anti-union organization known as the California federation of education. On 54 roll calls on selected labor measures Chamberlin failed to vote on seven, was one, and in every instance voted "No."

TOM DUFFY REAPPOINTED

Columbus, Ohio, July 14.—Thomas J. Duffy, former president of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters, has been reappointed a member of the state industrial commission by Governor Donahey. He has been a continuously connected with the commission since 1911.

ROADS ARE CARELESS; EARLY RECORDS LOST

Washington, July 14.—There will be no early valuation of railroads by the interstate commerce commission, according to evidence now being developed at these hearings.

Railroad attorneys have told the commission that the records of many of the old and absorbed railroads are not in existence; that it is impossible to find original costs, and that there is no basis for valuation of the present-day values. Many of these valuable records have mysteriously disappeared. All efforts to connect with the railroads can offer any suggestion as to their whereabouts. Officials who could give information on this subject are dead, the attorneys say.

The railroads do not seem alarmed over this absence of records. They simply announce that the papers have disappeared and that it is impossible to figure on the basis of original costs.

C. C. Hine, general counsel of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad, stated to the commission:

"The same causes which render it impossible to ascertain original cost make it impossible to estimate cost as of the date of installation. In many cases as during the early days in the wilder guesses than the furthest flight of fancy has ever carried the most imaginative writer of romance and the unlimited reproduction cost estimate. To apply the theory of estimated cost as of the date of installation or historical reproduction cost, it is a prerequisite that the date of installation be determined. In the absence of records, this is impossible. Divers substitutes have been suggested. Carefully worked out, each is superficially pleasing appearance. They are catchy slogans.

Stripped to fact by any attempt to apply them to a large railway system built by piecemeal through several decades, they are reduced to absurdities."

WHIPPING BOSS GUILTY; SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS

Lake City, Fla., July 14.—Higginbotham, white, foreman of a turpentine camp, has been found guilty of second degree murder in the killing of Young Martin Tabert, of North Dakota. He was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment and was then released on $10,000 bond pending appeal. The jury was out one hour and 20 minutes.

The defendant ordered the whipping, but contended that it was "within the law," basing this on testimony that not more than 39 lashes were struck, which the regulations permitted at that time. The death of Tabert resulted in the abolishment of whipping and the dismissal from office of the sheriff and county judge of Leon county who sentenced Tabert to pay for three months for riding a freight train. The sheriff admitted that he had an agreement with the Putnam company to supply prisoners at $20 each.

INDUSTRIAL COURT FATTENS UP REPORT

Topeka, Kan., July 14.—The free employment bureau of the Kansas industrial court is fattening its weekly reports in the hope that this will prevent its being killed.

Most of the jobs handed out by the bureau are for a few hours' work, such as wood sawing and washing autos for mobiles. For other work, wages in many cases are ridiculously low, and workers are threatened with arrest if they refuse to accept this employment. Certain industries that are in favor with the courts have little trouble in securing workers while farmers who need seasonal workers are having difficulty.

CLERKS ASK INCREASE.

Chicago, July 14.—Increase in wages of station and clerical forces of the Pere Marquette, Erie, New York Central, Ontario & Western railroads is asked in a submission filed with the railroad labor board by officers of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks.

STEEL MARKET SLACK.

New York, July 14.—Comparatively little buying has been reported in the steel market the past week and many mills are down for summer repairs. This condition exists despite Judge Gary's claim that additional labor is necessary before the 12-hour day can be abolished.